

Registry of Digital Masters (RDM) and CONSER single record approach

Summary from the 2007 Operations Meeting:

The revised guidelines from the Digital Library Federation (DLF) include several mandatory fields: 007, 506, 533, 583, 856. These exceed the number of elements outlined in CONSER's single record approach guidelines. Recent discussions of contributing single record approach records to the RDM have debated the need to include series access for series titles appearing on the digital reproduction, but not on the print original. Some CONSER members have been concerned with moving too much toward a single record approach rather than focusing on separate records. Some have suggested that RDA and FRBR will encourage a separate record approach in the future. Historically, some CONSER file subscribers have been confused by some of the elements on the CONSER print single record 007 especially, and there is concern that additional elements will further confuse them.

On the other hand, several CONSER members make heavy use of the single record approach and have indicated that they will not be able to contribute to the RDM without making use of it. The information provided by RDM data elements is really prospective about plans for preserving the print and thus in some ways really does refer to the print. The revised DLF guidelines include a roadmap suggesting further development of the holdings record to contain RDM data, rather than the bibliographic record. Some members mentioned that one of the problems in using the holdings record is that an additional searching step is required, first the bibliographic records, then the holdings record. Also many institutions currently do not configure holdings records for OAI harvesting as they do bibliographic records, although encoding holdings records in XML for harvesting is certainly possible.

Decision: CONSER members agreed not to contribute single record approach records to the RDM for a year, we'll monitor developments in how holdings records might be used for this and take another look at it.